

REMARKS

The Official Action of November 19th 2007 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 53, 57-60, 67-72, 74-81, 84, 89-95, 97-103, 105 and 106 have been amended. Claims 66 and 122-133 have been cancelled.

35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 53, 54, 56-59, 68-81 and 89-106 as being indefinite. In response these claims 53, 57-59, 68-72, 74-81, 89-95, 97-103, 105 and 106 have been amended to remove discontinuous lettered steps. Claim 84 has been amended to read "a portion".

With regards to claims 54 and 56 the Examiner submits that claim 54 contradicts claim 40 from which it depends given that claim 40 specifies no more than 2 separators, yet claim 54 claims a third separator. In response Applicants submit that claim 40 specifies no more than two phase separators and that claim 54 and claim 56, which is dependent thereon, require separation of at least a portion of the stream and do not require phase separation. Applicants respectfully submit that this would be clear to a person of ordinary skill in the art especially in view of the disclosure in the specification, for example, at page 9 line 30 to page 10 line 3.

35 U.S.C. 101

The Examiner rejects claims 128-133 because they are directed to non statutory subject matter. In response claims 128-133 have been cancelled.

35 U.S.C 102

The Examiner cites Houser et al (US 6,289,692) and submits that claims 60-66, 68-70, 72-75, 81 and 122-127 are anticipated. In response the subject matter of claim 67

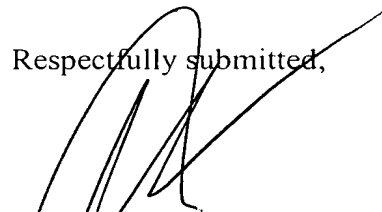
has been incorporated into claim 60 and given that claim 67 is considered to contain allowable subject matter Applicants submit that the claims as amended are not anticipated by the cited reference.

Double Patenting

The Examiner raises a non statutory double patenting rejection. Claims 40-48, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56-59 and 107-116 are rejected on the ground of non statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 33 of US 6,658,890 in view of Low et al (US 5,611,216). In response the Applicants submit the enclosed terminal disclaimer.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that this application is now in order for allowance. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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